

REMARKS

Claims 9, 12-16, 18, 23-27, 29, 36, 84-95 are pending in the present application. Claims 84-86 and 91-93 have been previously withdrawn. Claims 9, 12-18, 23 and 94 stand rejected by the Examiner. Claims 24-27, 29, 36 and 95 stand allowed by the Examiner. Claims 9, 12-18, 23 and 94 are hereby canceled. As such, only allowed Claims 24-27, 29, 36 and 95 are pending in the present case.

The Applicants note that all amendments of Claims presented herein are made without acquiescing to any of the Examiner's arguments or rejections, and solely for the purpose of expediting the patent application process in a manner consistent with the PTO's Patent Business Goals (PBG),¹ and without waiving the right to prosecute the amended Claims (or similar Claims) in the future.

I. CLAIM REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. §102(b) AND/OR §103(a)

The Examiner has rejected Claims 9, 12-18, 23 and 94 as allegedly being anticipated under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) by Chen et al. (U.S. Patent 6,794,501). The Applicants respectfully disagree with the rejection. However, for the purpose of expediting the patent application process in a manner consistent with the PTO's Patent Business Goals (PBG),² and without waiving the right to prosecute the amended Claims (or similar Claims) in the future, Claims 9, 12-18, 23 and 94 have been cancelled thereby rendering the rejection moot.

¹ 65 Fed. Reg. 54603 (Sept. 8, 2000).

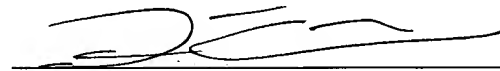
² 65 Fed. Reg. 54603 (Sept. 8, 2000).

CONCLUSION

Applicant's respectfully request that Claims 24-27, 29, 36 and 95, which have been found by the Examiner to be free of prior art and in condition of allowance, be passed to allowance and issued as currently written.

If a telephone interview would aid in the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is encouraged to call the undersigned collect at (618) 218-6900.

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